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Romney wins razor-thin in Iowa caucus



Republican presidential candidate, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, speaks as his wife Ann Romney and their sons (L-R) Josh, Matt, Craig and Tagg look on. Romney is the frontrunner for the Republican nomination to take on President Barack Obama in November. (AFP)

See story on page 6

The Morning News team ends the year with a big bang



With champagne, snacks, pagaras and a Dande group, The Morning News said goodbye to 2011 and welcome to 2012.





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Peter Frampton reunited with 'Best Guitar' after 31 years



Peter Frampton has been reunited with the Gibson electric guitar he played on "Frampton Comes Alive," three decades after it was presumed destroyed in a plane crash.

It turns out the guitar did not burn up in November 1980 when a cargo plane crashed on takeoff in Caracas, Venezuela, on its way to Panama, where Mr. Frampton was to perform. Instead someone plucked it from the burning wreckage and later sold it to a musician on the Dutch Caribbean island of Curaçao.

The guitar was returned to Mr. Frampton in Nashville last month after a two-year negotiation involving the local musician who had the guitar, a customs agent who repairs guitars in his spare time, a diehard Frampton fan in the Netherlands and the head of the island's tourist board.

Last month, the tourist board official, Ghatim Kabbara, bought the guitar with public funds and traveled to Nashville to hand it to Mr. Frampton in a tattered gig bag. Mr. Frampton said he knew as soon as he picked the instrument up that it was the same 1954 Gibson Les Paul with customized pickups that he had played for a decade. It was an emotional moment, he said.

"I am still in a state of shock, first off, that the guitar even exists, let alone that it has been returned to me. I know I have my guitar back, but I will never forget the lives that were lost in this crash. I am so thankful for the efforts of those who made this possible," he said in a statement.

Subway donates football shoes to YMCA San Nicolaas



Fast food giant, Subway, together with the International organization "Playing it Forward" recently made a significant donation to the San Nicolaas YMCA of new and used football sneakers.

Subway's donation is a demonstration of their commitment to our community and their corporate responsibility as good corporate citizens.

Playing it Forward is an American organization which collects different athletic articles that American Universities and Colleges use for the span of one semester. After the one semester the articles are put aside and new ones are bought. Previously these articles were simply thrashed. Playing it Forward collects this athletic equipment and distributes them around the world.

This is the second year that Subway and Playing it Forward are collaborating to obtain these articles and to get them to Aruba. All the athletic articles are in perfectly good condition.

Once the articles are collected, they are distributed by charity organizations work-

ing in the behalf of young people. This year Subway has chosen to bless children living in the San Nicolaas area

development of football on Aruba. In addition, it is also a means of supporting the tremendous work of the YMCA whose efforts have always been to benefit our children and young people. Accompanying photos show Jaime Maduro of Subway Aruba and David Cohen of Playing it Forward making the official presentation of football sneakers to Percy Phelipa of the San Nicolaas YMCA. Mr. Phelipa expressed his heartfelt gratitude for the marvelous gesture of Subway and Playing it Forward and assured them that the YMCA will



with football shoes. Subway and Playing it Forward are convinced that this action will definitely benefit the de-

make certain that they reach those children most needing this important football gear.

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Ultimate introduces the majestic BMW 1 Series to the Aruban market

Since its launch on the International World market, the second generation of BMW 1 Series has accumulated a great deal of important prizes. It has also been submitted to all types of rigorous testing by the media, judges of international media, design experts, crash test engineers, and automotive press people. The BMW 1 Series has surpassed all expectations!

The BMW 1 Series has won the "Golden Steering Wheel." Immediately following its launch, in a compact highly competitive segment, the BMW 1 Series rose to the top since last November.

Readers and judges of the German newspaper, "Bild am



Sonntag" and a group of international automotive magazines, "Auto Bild," voted for the BMW 1 Series. BMW 1 Series is also the only vehicle in its class with 'rear-wheel drive.'

Auto Bild is a conglomerate of 33 international magazines which represents practically all European countries as well as countries like China, Mexico and Thailand.

During the EuroNCAP crash test the BMW 1 Series received 5 stars with a perfect score. This is a very significant reference recognized world wide. In this manner, engineers confirm the superior protection that occupants of this vehicle can expect...as well as pedestrians can feel safe in the vicinity of this vehicle.

During the test drives of the "Auto Zeitung" Group, the BMW 1 Series, and particularly the BMW 118i surpassed the Audi A3 Sport back 1.8 TFS in both categories. The BMW surpassed the Audi in total points as well as in the individual category, such as the body, expe-

rience of comfortable management, dynamic maneuvers and the cost to the environment.

The BMW reveals itself as the "king of corners!" This is because of its remarkable comfort and dynamic maneuverability. By all standards, the BMW 1 Series is truly an "all-rounder" vehicle.

Auto Trophy has given the BMW 1 Series the "Top Spot" in 2011, which earned it the "Auto Trophy 2011" award. The design elements of this superb vehicle complement its mature character and premium quality.

Continued on page 5

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According to statistics, 2011 closes off with surge in imports compared to 2009 and 2010



ORANJESTAD— The end of the year always usually signals a surge in imports for Aruba, accounted for by increased economic activity. December 2011 was no exception; last month Aruba Stevedoring Company (ASTEC) N.V.

noted an increase of 23% more cargo containers arriving compared to December 2010. Overall import for the whole year increased by 9% compared to 2010 and 5.4% compared to 2009.

No doubt, this is a very

positive indicator for our economic motivation and growth for 2011.

ASTEC wishes the entire Aruban community a Safe and Happy New Year with great success for all businesses.

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It's party time: Aruba celebrates with two full months of Carnival festivities this winter



ORANJESTAD -- The One happy island of Aruba is buzzing with excitement as it gears up for the 58th Annual Carnival Celebration. Beginning January 7 and continuing through February 21, Aruba's Carnival includes colorful street festivals, competitions and festive parades representing the island's biggest party each year.

From the beat of steel drums and calypso tunes to the sound of brass bands and road marches, the streets of Aruba are filled with music throughout the Carnival celebration. Thousands of carnivalistas adorned in spectacular feathered costumes and headpieces create a dazzling display for spectators of all ages and backgrounds.

Highlights of Aruba's annual Carnival celebration include the Carnival Queen Election Day on February 3, where Aruba will select one of its most important Carnival representatives. Aruba's Lighting Parade, which takes place on February 11, is a twinkling nighttime event in which thousands of tiny lights are incorporated into costumes, road pieces and floats, creating a dramatic contrast against the backdrop of the night sky. Set

your alarm clocks for 4:00 a.m. on February 18 for Aruba's annual "pajama party," Jouvert Morning in San Nicolas. An early morning open invitation to the island's largest "jump up" is attended by carnival enthusiasts from all throughout the island who follow the various live music caravans down the city streets until sunrise. Following Jouvert Morning, celebrants continue the party at San Nicolas' Grand Carnival Parade, which begins at 1 p.m. in San Nicolas.

The culmination of the Carnival celebration, the Grand Carnival Parade, is an all-day event taking place on February 19 that is filled with music, celebratory floats and stunning costumes while the parade route winds its way down city avenues to the delight of thousands of spectators. The parade starts at 12:00 noon in Oranjestad and continues into the evening hours.

Carnival season concludes on February 21 with the ceremonial midnight Burning of King Momo, a life-size effigy of the spirit of Carnival, on the eve of Ash Wednesday.

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Joran van der Sloot murder trial to start tomorrow

LIMA -- Dutchman Joran van der Sloot is to go on trial in the Peruvian capital Lima tomorrow. He is accused of murdering Stephany Flores in his Lima hotel room on 30 May 2010.

Lima's Public Prosecutor has announced he will seek a 30-year prison term and a fine of 50,000 euros. The trial, which is expected to attract considerable media coverage, will begin at 10.00 hours local time. The trial will be held in Lima's Lurigancho prison near the Castro Castro prison where Van der Sloot is on remand.

When questioned by the Peruvian authorities, Van der Sloot admitted killing Ms Flores in his Lima hotel room. He said he acted on a violent impulse when he saw her read documents on his laptop relating to the disappearance of US teenager Natalee Holloway.

The 24-year-old Dutchman is the main suspect in the disappearance Ms Holloway on Aruba in May 2005. He has never been charged due to lack of evidence. Ms Holloway was 18 when she went missing. Ms Flores was 21 when she was killed.

Ultimate introduces ...

Continued from page 3



Ultimate Automobiles and Arucar Automotives are among Aruba's dynamic companies and are exclusive agents for the world renowned BMW and MINI, as well as for the Suzuki, Chevrolet, Jeep, Subaru and Dodge. Ultimate offers quick reliable service to her clients in the sales department, parts and garage service. They have a proud team of dedicated service personnel who always stand ready to assist customers with superb service.

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Laura Dekker very close to breaking world solo sailing record

-- Laura Dekker, Dutch Teen Sailor, is close to breaking the world solo sailing record.

The teenage girl took on the sea one year ago and now she's almost finished with her journey.

It is expected that the 16-year-old girl arrives later this Month on the Caribbean island of St. Maarten, where she began her sailing trip around the world January 20, 2011.

The sailing girl, celebrated New Year on the Atlantic in

her boat Guppy. On her blog she writes that the lights from the moon and the stars were a good replacement for the fireworks.

Dutch teen Laura Dekker is trying to break Watson's record of being the youngest person to sail around the world solo. After a legal battle with the Dutch government — which initially objected to the teen making the trip — Dekker set off from Gibraltar in August 2010, when she was 14.



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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

US restricts some antibiotics in livestock

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US health officials said yesterday they will begin restricting the use of some antibiotics in cows, pigs and poultry due to concerns that infections in humans may be growing resistant to treatment.

The order by the Food and Drug Administration applies to a common class of drugs known as cephalosporins, which are often given to healthy animals as a preventive measure to ward off potential infections.

Beginning in April, the FDA will ban the use of cephalosporin drugs for disease prevention in livestock.

The FDA order also prevents such drugs, intended for humans or pets, from being administered in any "unapproved" way to cattle, swine, chickens or turkeys.

That means veterinarians can still "prescribe cephalosporins for limited extra-label use in cattle, swine, chickens or turkeys as long as they follow the dose, frequency, duration, and route of administration that is on the label," said the FDA in a statement.

The drugs can also still be

used in ducks and rabbits.

The move aims to protect the effectiveness of these drugs in humans, and "is intended to reduce the risk of cephalosporin resistance in certain bacterial pathogens," the FDA said in a statement.

The agency noted that it had taken into account "substantial public comment" on the matter since 2008, when it issued but then revoked a similar order before it could be implemented.

Cephalosporins are often used in humans to treat pneumonia, skin and soft tissue infections including E. Coli and staph, pelvic inflammatory disease, diabetic foot infections, and urinary tract infections.

When diseases become resistant, doctors must turn to other drugs that may not be as effective or may have stronger side effects, the FDA said.

US Congresswoman Louise Slaughter called the move a "modest first step" by the FDA and noted that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said in 2009 that nearly three percent of all salmonella cases were cephalosporin-resistant.

Romney, Santorum zero in on next White House race

MANCHESTER (AFP) - Mitt Romney and Rick Santorum blitzed New Hampshire yesterday as their epic first tussle began to winnow the field battling to be the Republican presidential standard-bearer.

In the closest results in the history of the Iowa caucuses, Romney defeated Christian conservative Santorum by a whisker -- just eight votes -- in Tuesday's opening shots of the 2012 White House race.

The result cemented Romney's status as the frontrunner for the Republican nomination to take on President Barack Obama in November.

But it failed to dispel lingering doubts about the depth of his popularity, especially among the Republicans' traditional base, wary of the former Massachusetts governor's conservative credentials and his Mormon faith.

The first casualty of Tuesday's vote was Iowa-born Representative Michele Bachmann, who announced she was quitting the race after her disappointing sixth place finish in the heartland state.

"Last night the people of Iowa spoke with a very clear voice and so I have decided to stand aside," the former dar-

ling of the conservative right said yesterday.

But Texas Governor Rick Perry, having hinted he might drop out after coming in fifth, teased supporters by saying in a tweet yesterday: "And the next leg of the marathon is the Palmetto State... Here we come South Carolina!!!"

After an agonizing delay which stretched into yesterday morning, the final Iowa count gave Romney a razor-thin victory of 30,015 votes to Santorum's 30,007 -- or 25 percent each of some 120,000 ballots cast.

Both candidates were swift to declare that they were moving on to the next battleground in New Hampshire, which will hold the nation's first primary of the 2012 race on January 10.

Romney however dismissed concerns that the Iowa split -- in which firebrand libertarian Representative Ron Paul took some 21 percent to finish third -- marked an inconclusive showing, in which he won fewer votes than in the 2008 race.

"This was a seven-person field. You can't do in a field of seven what you can in a smaller field. And I also ran a national campaign," Romney insisted on ABC early yesterday.

He also said he had "broad shoulders" as former House speaker Newt Gingrich, who finished fourth in Iowa, signaled he was gunning for

Romney, calling the multimillionaire businessman and venture capitalist a "liar" in his Iowa concession speech.

"I know the attacks are going to come. They're going to come more fast and furious now," Romney said.

New Hampshire polls taken before the Iowa results showed Romney polling strongly in the state, with around 43 percent support. And Santorum's Christian conservative message may be harder to sell here.

Pundits have also raised doubts whether Santorum -- a devout Catholic whose pro-life stand and fierce opposition to gay marriage resonated with Iowa's evangelical voters -- has the necessary resources and on-the-ground organization to take on Romney's well-oiled, well-funded political machine.

Santorum, who came from behind to give Romney a run for his money in Iowa, insisted however there was still everything to play for.

Obama's Democratic allies were meanwhile comforted that so far Republicans have failed to coalesce around one candidate, meaning the nominating battle could drag on for some weeks yet.

Obama's campaign manager Jim Messina said the "extremist Tea Party agenda won a clear victory" in the Republican contest and called on the president's supporters to step up their organizational efforts.



AFP photo shows Venezuelan judge Maria Lourdes Afiuni at home in Caracas, Venezuela on January 4, 2012. Afiuni, 48, was sentenced last December to two years in prison for granting freedom on parole to banker Eligio Cedenio who is accused of corruption. She had ruled that prosecutors had exceeded the time limit to bring Cedenio's case to court. After a "stormy" period in jail, she was taken --almost a year ago-- to her home in Caracas, where she lives with her parents and her daughter under house arrest. Human Rights Watch has said Afiuni's case shows how President Hugo Chavez's government "has demonstrated its fundamental disregard for the principle of judicial independence." Chavez, speaking on state television on Dec. 11, 2009, called for Afiuni to "pay" with "30 years in prison" for ordering Cedenio's release. Afiuni isn't authorized to speak with the press.

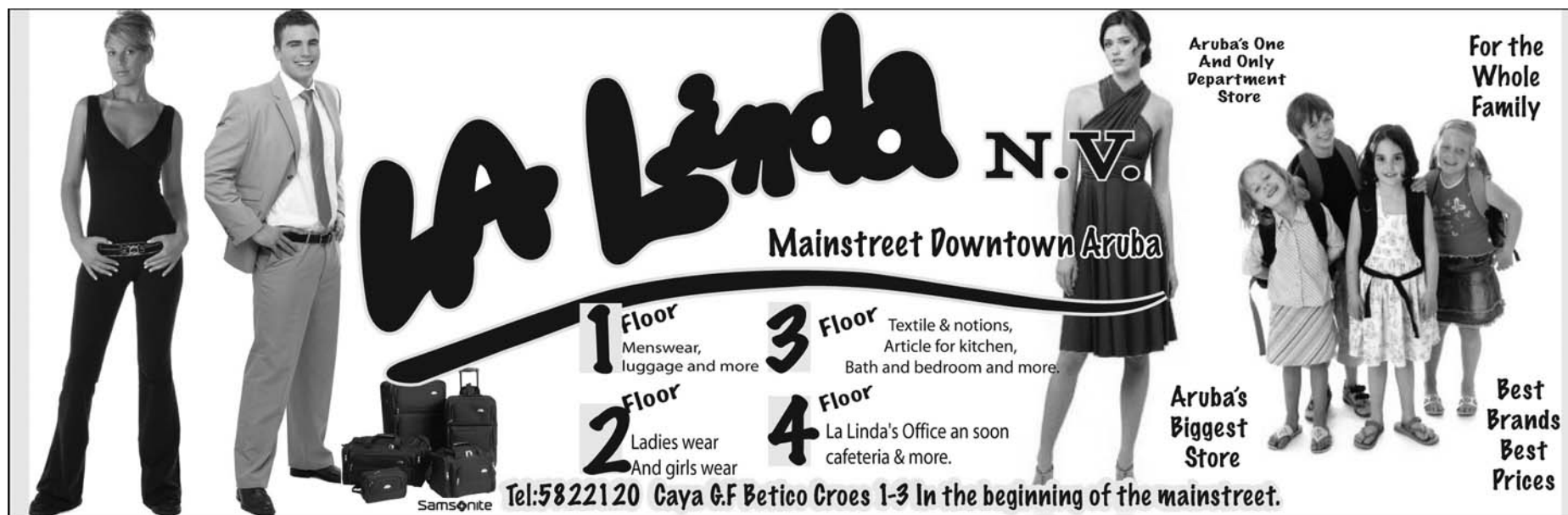
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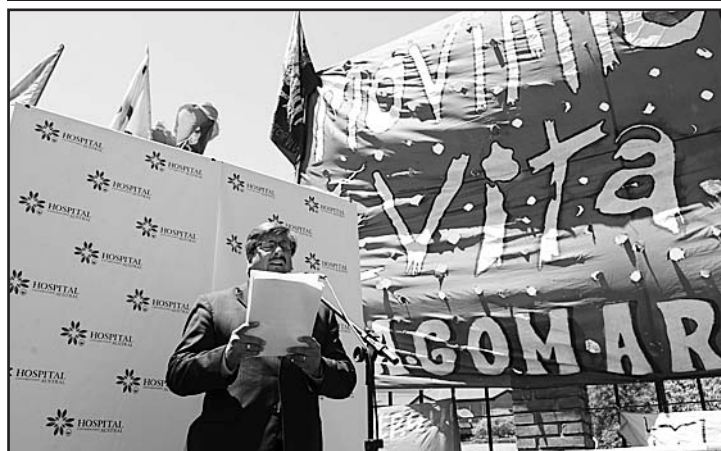
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INTERNATIONAL NEWS



ARGENTINA, PILAR: Argentine presidency's spokesperson Alfredo Scoccimarro reads a medical report on the health condition of President Cristina Kirchner, at Hospital Austral, 50 km north of Buenos Aires on January 4, 2011. Cristina Kirchner underwent surgery for thyroid cancer yesterday morning, with her doctors predicting a full recovery. (AFP PHOTO)

Nigeria: Hundreds protest, mob threatens newspaper office

KANO (AFP) - Hundreds of protesters shut down petrol stations in northern Nigeria's largest city yesterday and a mob threatened to burn a newspaper office amid volatile demonstrations over soaring fuel prices.

Placard-waving protesters in Kano headed toward the state governor's office when dozens of armed police and soldiers blocked them using trucks and vans, an AFP correspondent witnessed.

The protesters then gathered on the city centre's main square, known as the Silver Jubilee Square but which protesters renamed "Liberation Square."

Businesses around the square pulled down their shutters fearing violence and four filling stations overlooking the square were forced to close after they were besieged by the protesters.

A mob also threatened to burn down the office of the Daily Trust newspaper -- whose coverage the protestors perceived as supportive of the government's move -- but police blocked them.

The government in Africa's largest oil producer ended fuel subsidies on January 1, sparking widespread opposition and protests in parts of the country including the capital Abuja and the commercial hub of Lagos.

Scandal-hit German president says wants to stay in office

BERLIN (AFP) - Embattled German President Christian Wulff said yesterday he wanted to stay in office despite a mounting series of scandals that Chancellor Angela Merkel asked him to clear up.

"I am pleased to assume my responsibilities (as president), I took them on for a five-year term," Wulff said in a televised interview amid a growing chorus of calls for his resignation.

He added that he hoped by the end of the term in 2015 "to have a record showing I was a good and successful president".

Wulff, 52, landed in hot water last month when the powerful daily Bild reported that he had concealed a home loan at an advantageous interest rate he accepted from the wife of a tycoon friend while premier of Lower Saxony state.

When opposition state deputies asked him whether he

had business ties to the tycoon or any firms connected with him, Wulff had kept quiet.

This week it emerged that Wulff had called Bild's editor-in-chief Kai Diekmann one day before the story's publication and left a blistering voice-mail message threatening him with "war" if he went ahead with the report.

Meanwhile another publication, Welt am Sonntag, said one of its reporters had been summoned to the presidential palace for a dressing-down over another article about Wulff's strained relationship with his half-sister.

Wulff said in the interview yesterday that the call to Diekmann had been a "serious mistake" that was "unworthy" of a president and for which he had already apologised. On the loan, Wulff insisted it had been a private arrangement with a friend rather than a business



German President Christian Wulff

deal.

"I would not like to be president of a country in which you can no longer borrow money from a friend," he said.

Wulff said he would not resign as he had received strong support from Germans in recent weeks calling on him to stay in office.

Two men jailed for 'evil' British racist murder

LONDON (AFP) - A British judge jailed two white men yesterday for the "evil" murder of black teenager Stephen Lawrence in 1993, one of the country's most notorious racist crimes which prompted a major police overhaul.

Gary Dobson, 36, and David Norris, 35, were found guilty by a jury Tuesday of being part of a gang of white youths who stabbed the 18-year-old to death in an unprovoked attack at a bus stop in Eltham, southeast London.

Handing down the sentences in a packed courtroom at London's Old Bailey, Judge Colman Treacy said Lawrence's murder was a "terrible and evil crime" committed for "no other reason than racial hatred."

He sentenced Dobson, who was aged 17 at the time of the attack, to at least 15 years and

two months in jail, while Norris, who was 16 at the time, was given a minimum of 14 years and three months.

The convictions bring some closure to a long-running case which the judge said had "scarred the conscience of the nation."

The case sparked an overhaul of the police after a damning report found the original investigation was hampered by "institutional racism", and is viewed as a milestone in race relations across Britain.

Lawrence's father Neville welcomed the jail terms but said it was "only one step in a long, long journey."

He said he hoped Dobson and Norris would "go and lay down in their beds and think that they weren't the only ones who were responsible for the death of my son and... give up

the rest of the people".

The convicted pair were among five suspects arrested within days of the murder, and Scotland Yard police chief Bernard Hogan-Howe pledged yesterday not to give up in the search for their accomplices.

"The other people involved in the murder of Stephen Lawrence should not rest easily in their beds," he said.

The victim's mother Doreen Lawrence said the sentences were "quite low" but accepted that the pair had been treated as juveniles because they were under 18 at the time. If they had been adults, they could have faced 30 years.

Treacy said the murder had a "degree of general premeditation" as members knew the gang was armed, even if it could not be proven that either had wielded the knife.



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Health & Living

Calories, not protein, boost body fat: study



(AFP) - People who eat too much of a high-calorie, low-protein diet tend to gain more body fat than people who overeat high amounts of protein, US researchers said Tuesday.

A study published in the January 4 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association included 25 people in Louisiana who agreed to live as in-patients in a weight-gain experiment for a 56-day period.

Over the course of about two months, they were overfed by about 1,000 calories per day.

Some were fed a diet that was five percent protein, some ate 15 percent protein -- considered a normal level -- and others ate 25 percent protein, or a high amount.

The researchers' aim was to uncover how different levels

of protein might affect overall weight gain, body fat and energy expenditure.

They found that people on the low-protein diet gained less weight overall, but that more of their extra energy was stored as fat than people on the mid-level and high-protein diets.

Low-protein eaters gained about half as much as the others -- putting on an average of 3.16 kilograms (seven pounds) during the study compared to 6.05 kg in the normal protein group and 6.51 kg in the high-protein group.

But a lot of that extra weight was in the form of lean body mass, which people on the mid- and high-level protein diets gained while those on the low-protein regime lost.

Ninety percent of the extra energy consumed by people on the low-protein diet was stored as fat, compared to about 50 percent in the other two groups.

"The key finding of this study is that calories are more important than protein while consuming excess amounts of energy with respect to increases in body fat," said the research, led by George Bray of the Pennington Biomedical Research Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

US cancer deaths continue to drop: study

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Steep declines in fatal cases of lung and breast cancer have led the drop in cancer deaths in the United States in the last several years, according to data by the American Cancer Society Wednesday.

In all, more than a million deaths have been avoided since cancer mortality first began to decline at the start of the 1990s, said the Cancer Statistics 2012 report based on US government health data and statistical models.

But while deaths from four major cancers -- lung, colorectum, breast, and prostate -- continued to drop in the past decade, other potentially lethal cancers have been on the rise, including throat and mouth cancers linked to human papillomaviruses, a common sexually transmitted disease.

Cancers of the pancreas, liver, thyroid, and kidney and melanoma of the skin have also been mounting over the past 10 years. Some of those may be tied to the obesity epi-

demic in the United States as well as better early detection practices for certain cancers, the report suggested.

For the most recent four years of the study, 2004-2008, overall cancer incidence rates declined 0.6 percent per year for men and were stable in women. Cancer death rates for that period dropped 1.8 percent per year in men and 1.6 percent annually in women. The biggest contributors to the drop in fatalities were lung cancer, which accounted for 40 percent of the decline in deaths among men and breast cancer, which made up 34 percent of the fall in deaths among women. From 1999 to 2008, cancer deaths have dropped in every racial group except for American Indians and Alaska natives, among whom the rates have stayed steady, it added.

This coming year, the United States can expect a total of 1.6 million new cancer diagnoses and 577,190 deaths from cancer, according to the report's projections.



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Gastric bypass cuts death risk: study



(AFP) - Obese people who undergo gastric bypass surgery are less likely to die from heart attack and stroke than people who receive more conventional treatment for their weight condition, a Swedish study said this week.

The study, published in the January 4 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association, included about 4,000 patients in Sweden who were recruited between 1987 and 2001.

The surgery patients either had gastric bypass (13.2 percent), banding (18.7 percent), or vertical banded gastroplasty (68.1 percent), and all lost 16-23 percent of their body weight in subsequent years.

The control group did not have any type of surgery and showed a 0-1 percent weight loss at follow-up periods of two, 10, 15 and 20 years.

"Bariatric surgery was associated with reduced number of fatal heart attack deaths (22 in

the surgery group vs. 37 in the control group)," said the study led by Lars Sjostrom of the University of Gothenburg, Sweden.

Bariatric surgery was also linked to a lower number of heart attacks overall, fewer strokes, and fewer fatal strokes.

But when the researchers looked at weight change alone, they could find no significant relationship to cardiovascular events in either group, suggesting that the weight loss itself might not be the driver of fewer deaths.

"There are many benefits to bariatric surgery and that some of these benefits are independent of the degree of the surgically induced weight loss," said the study.

Other studies have shown that the benefits of gastric surgery for extremely obese people can include long-term changes of body weight, better quality of life, and fewer inci-

dences of diabetes and cancer.

"The message is clear -- bariatric surgery saves lives," said Mitchell Roslin, chief of obesity surgery at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York, who was not involved in the study.

Roslin noted that the most common type of surgery in the study, vertical banded gastroplasty, has been replaced by newer methods that are even more effective, so the cardiovascular death risk is likely even lower today.

As many as 200,000 gastric bypass operations, in which the stomach is sectioned off so that the smaller amounts of food can fit inside, are done annually in the United States, where about a third of people are obese.



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Sci-Tech

Fly parasite turns honey bees into 'zombies': study



Honey bees

(AFP) - US scientists have discovered that a fly parasite can turn honey bees into confused zombies before killing them, in an advance that could offer new clues to why bee colonies are collapsing.

So far, the parasite has only been detected in honey bees in California and South Dakota, American researchers reported in the open access science journal PLoS ONE this week.

But if it turns out to be an emerging parasite, that "underlines the danger that could threaten honey bee colonies throughout North America," said the study led by San Francisco State University professor of biology John Hafernik.

Hafernik made the discovery by accident, when he foraged some bees from outside a light fixture at the university to feed to a praying mantis he'd brought back from a field trip.

"But being an absent-minded professor, I left them in a vial on my desk and forgot

about them. Then the next time I looked at the vial, there were all these fly pupae surrounding the bees," he said.

Soon, the bees began to die, but not in the usual way by sitting still and curling up. These bees kept trying to move their legs and get around, but they were too weak, said lead author Andrew Core, a graduate student in Hafernik's lab.

"They kept stretching them out and then falling over," said Core. "It really painted a picture of something like a zombie."

Further study showed that bees that left their hives at night were most likely to become infected with the fly parasite, identified as *Apocephalus borealis*.

Once bees were parasitized by the fly, they would abandon their hives and congregate near lights, a very unusual behavior for bees.

"When we observed the bees for some time -- the ones

that were alive -- we found that they walked around in circles, often with no sense of direction," said Core.

The parasite lays its eggs in the bee's abdomen. About a week after the bee dies, the fly larvae push their way into the world, often exiting from between the bee's head and mid-section.

The research, which has also confirmed that the same flies have been parasitizing bumblebees, won local excellence awards when it was first presented last year.

Next, the team hopes to find out more about where the parasitization is taking place, and whether the "zombie bees" leave the colony of their own accord or if their disease is sensed by comrades who then push them out.

Researchers plan to use tiny radio tags and video monitoring to find clues to the mystery.

"We don't know the best way to stop parasitization, because one of the big things we're missing is where the flies are parasitizing the bees," Hafernik said.

"We assume it's while the bees are out foraging, because we don't see the flies hanging around the bee hives. But it's still a bit of a black hole in terms of where it's actually happening."

Experts have theorized that the huge die-off of bees worldwide since 2006, a major threat to crops that depend on the honey-making insects for pollination, is not due to any one single factor.

Parasites, viral and bacterial infections, pesticides, and poor nutrition resulting from the impact of human activities on the environment have all played a role in the decline.

The mysterious decimation of bee populations in the United States, Europe, Japan and elsewhere in recent years threatens agricultural production worth tens of billions of dollars.

Armed commandos to protect India's tigers



physical training, unarmed combat, training in using weapons, field engineering (and) map reading," he added, hailing the initiative as the first of its kind in India.

India is home to half of the world's rapidly dwindling wild tiger population but has been struggling to halt the big cat's decline in the face of poachers,

international smuggling networks and loss of habitat.

From an estimated 40,000 animals in 1947, when India gained independence from British colonial rule, numbers were down to around 1,706 -- about half that in 2001 but slightly up on the 1,411 in 2006.

Karnataka is India's most tiger-dense state, with some 300 of the predators prowling its six major reserves in 2010.

The state forest department says that about 50 tigers have died in Karnataka since 2006, half of them killed by poachers, with the carcasses sold for use in traditional Chinese medicine.

The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has set aside 500 million rupees (\$920,000) to raise, arm and deploy similar squadrons in 13 tiger reserves across India.

(AFP) - Armed commandos are to be deployed in the jungles of southern India to deter poachers from capturing and killing endangered tigers, state government officials announced on Wednesday.

The 54-strong Special Tiger Protection Force will patrol the two main tiger reserves of Bandipur and Nagarhole national parks on the Karnataka-Tamil Nadu state border, the Karnataka government in Bangalore said.

The squad, which includes forest rangers, has undergone a three-month course in jungle survival techniques as well as weapons training.


"We plan to induct an additional 54 personnel into the force for deploying in the other three tiger reserves across the state," B.K. Singh, the state's principal chief conservator of forests, told reporters.

"They will also undergo

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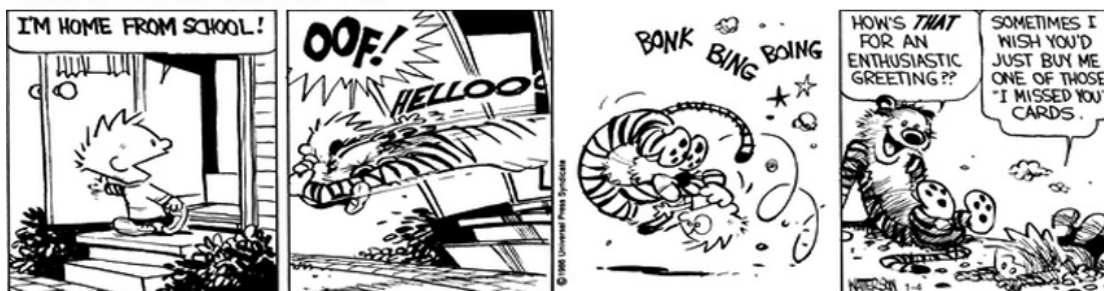
PICKLES



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ACROSS

1. Black cat, to some
5. Femmes fatales' baggage
10. "That's All Right, —"
14. Type of cookin'
15. Chief Keebler elf
16. Made a fine serve
17. Attorney, colloquially
19. Defense pact acronym
20. Basilica recesses
21. Sports car
22. Way of thinking
26. Apportion
27. Iris's pigmented layer

28. TV antenna
31. Drinking vessel in France
33. Rugged crest
34. Explosive inits.
35. Sweet wine of Sicily
38. Economic stat
41. Fashion designer
42. Frasier Crane's brother
44. Insincerity
49. Pairs
50. Shoelace tips
51. Primordial
53. Not likely
54. Powders
56. Oil-drilling platforms
57. Tec
62. Needle case
63. Surrenders,

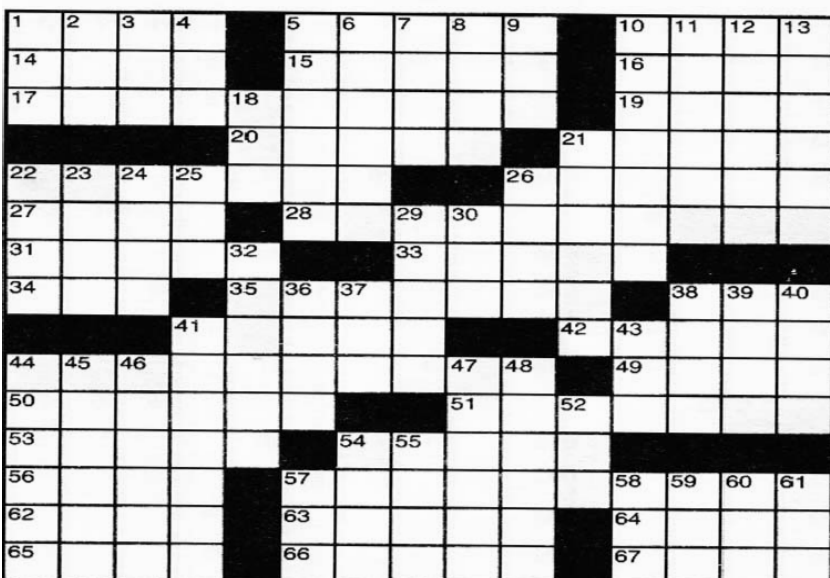
64. as territory
65. Controversial preservative
66. Elder and Trevino
67. Heckle
- Diver's position

DOWN

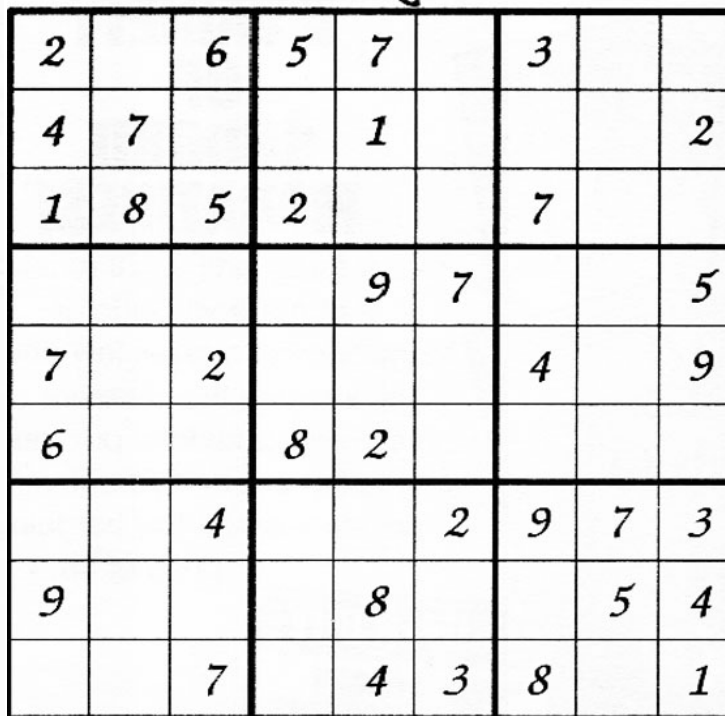
1. Resistance measure
2. Lea utterance
3. Large bird of Australia
4. Lepidopterist's need
5. Dr —
6. Pop music label
7. Snicker —
8. Spasms
9. View
10. Endangered Caribbean mammal
11. Tree of the

12. Shooting star
13. Decks out
18. Contains
21. Material for porch furniture
22. "— and Jeff"
23. Dixon of "Hogan's Heroes"
24. Twiggy abode
25. Some "Law & Order" characters: abbr.
26. Cambodian money
29. Choir section
30. Bikini half
32. Clown Kelly
36. Tunes
37. Gun a motor
38. Ammo for a crafter's gun
39. Blinking sign
40. Attention-getter
41. Sterility
43. New Guinea language
44. Evergreen
45. Be the catalyst
46. Avoid like the

47. Dairy babies
48. Box up
52. Chicago's zone: abbr.
54. Pre-Christmas purchase
55. Verdi work
57. Fraction: abbr.
58. "The Raven" monogram
59. Yale collegian
60. Talk excessively
61. "Able was I —"



HEADSHOT



SOLUTION

1	9	8	5	7	6	2	3	4
4	7	3	9	8	2	1	5	6
1	8	5	2	3	7	9	4	6
7	6	2	4	9	7	3	8	5
9	3	4	8	2	1	5	6	7
6	5	7	1	3	9	8	2	4
2	4	3	6	5	7	1	9	8
8	1	9	6	4	3	5	2	7
3	2	6	7	1	8	4	9	5

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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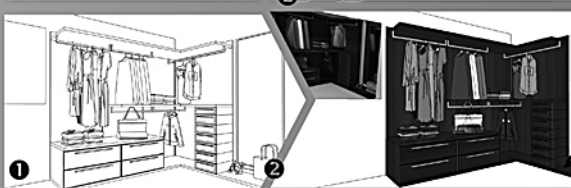
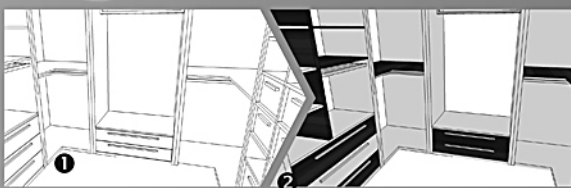
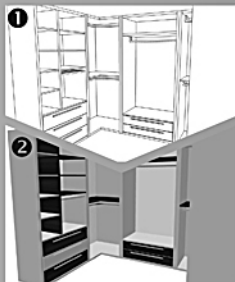
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Finance

Investors begin 2012 cautiously as euro crisis persists

FRANKFURT (AFP) - Banks parked record sums at the ECB and Germany held a solid but unspectacular bond auction, suggesting investors remain cautious as data yesterday indicated the euro crisis was far from over.

Lenders placed 453 billion euros (\$591 billion) on deposit at the European Central Bank for 24 hours Tuesday, breaking a previous record set last week, it said.

Analysts expressed concern that banks were preferring to hand money to the ultra-secure central bank -- where it earns a low rate -- rather than lend it to each other, prompting fears of a liquidity freeze.

The heavy reliance by banks on the ECB followed the central bank providing lenders last month with 489 billion euros in low-cost three-year loans in a bid to avert a possible credit crunch.

Stefan Schilbe, an analyst from HSBC Trinkhaus, told AFP that Tuesday's record showed "trust between banks has still not returned and the interbank market is still not functioning."

"At the moment, most of the money lent by the ECB is coming back and that is not

going to change from one day to the next," the economist added.

Another source at a major European bank, who did not wish to be named, said the data were "worrying and shows how reluctant commercial banks are to lend to the real economy, instead preferring to park it with the ECB at 0.25 percent."

However, this source told AFP there was "no evidence to date from the monthly ECB lending data that a crunch is already happening or is imminent."

Meanwhile, German 10-year bonds, considered the gold standard of eurozone debt, enjoyed solid if not stellar demand at an auction yesterday.

In an operation organisers described as "favourable", Germany raised four billion euros at a slightly lower cost of 1.93 percent compared to the last such auction.

The previous sale of 10-year bonds in November sparked a market panic as investors bid for much less than was offered, raising fears the debt crisis had infected Germany, Europe's top economy.

After the November shock, yesterday's auction was "very

much back in line with more normal results," said David Schnautz, an economist at Germany's Commerzbank.

Traders appeared to welcome the result of the much-anticipated auction, with stock markets ticking slightly higher and debt yields on the secondary market dropping briefly in reaction.

Attention quickly turned to France, which hopes to borrow between seven and eight billion euros at a long-term debt auction today.

However, European stock exchanges were down overall following a strong rally on Tuesday. The German and British markets were lower by just less than one percent, while Italy, Spain and France were off by more than one percent.

Market players were also reacting to a key eurozone survey of private sector activity.

The purchasing managers' index (PMI), a survey of 4,500 manufacturing and services firms, rose to 48.3 points in December, an improvement compared to November but still indicating a slump in activity.

Any score below 50 indicates contraction.



Current as of:	Currency	Buying rate	Buying	Selling
01/04/2012	Code	banknotes	Cheques	Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	31.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.73	1.75	1.77
Britain	GBP	2.71	2.76	2.82
Switzerland	CHF	188.92	189.64	190.44
Netherlands	EUR	228.52	230.61	232.93
Sweden	SEK	24.93	25.65	26.45
Denmark	DKK	30.05	30.77	31.57
Norway	NOK	28.98	29.70	30.50
Japan	JPY	229.83	231.93	234.26

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China's foreign trade will touch \$4.8 trillion

BEIJING (AFP) - China's commerce ministry said yesterday the nation's foreign trade was due to grow at an annual rate of 10 percent to reach \$4.8 trillion by 2015, as it issued development goals for the next four years.

The prediction comes as authorities in the world's second largest economy try to shore up domestic demand as crises in the United States and Europe impact the export-dependent Asian powerhouse.

"Annual growth in imports and exports of goods will be around 10 percent, and will reach \$4.8 trillion in 2015," the ministry said in a statement.

This compares with the \$2.97 trillion-worth of foreign trade recorded in 2010, the state-run Xinhua news agency said, quoting official data.

Retail sales, meanwhile,

will grow around 15 percent annually to reach 32 trillion yuan (\$5.1 trillion), the commerce ministry said.

The predictions come after Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao warned of a difficult start to 2012, amid rising concerns over a sharp economic slowdown in China.

The country's economy has been affected by a slowdown in developed countries and a shift in China's own economic drivers in 2011, as the government shifts focus to domestic consumption to counter falling external demand.

In a bid to boost growth and counter economic turmoil in Europe and the United States, authorities in December cut the amount of money banks must hold in reserve for the first time in three years.

Ford, Chrysler rack up strong 2011 gains

CHICAGO (AFP) - US automaker Ford said yesterday sales had remained strong in December to give it an 11 percent rise for the year, while smaller Chrysler reported a 26 percent gain for 2011.

Ford sales hit 2.15 million vehicles last year, helped by a solid 10 percent rise in December over 12 months earlier.

"The year finished on a high note, with industry sales momentum strengthening as the year came to a close," said Ken Czuby, vice president for US marketing, sales and service.

Chrysler, the number-three US automaker, reported US sales in December jumped 37 percent from a year earlier to the highest monthly level since May 2008.

For all of 2011, Chrysler

sold 1.37 million vehicles, an increase of 26 percent from 2010.

"We were the fastest-growing automaker in the country, increasing our market share 1.3 percentage points during 2011," said Reid Bigland, head of US sales.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



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Saudi women in lingerie shop victory



Saudi women shop at a lingerie store in the Saudi Red Sea port of Jeddah.

(AFP) -As of today, only female staff will be able to sell women's lingerie in Saudi Arabia, ending decades of awkwardness in the ultra-conservative Muslim kingdom where women are expected to don black cloaks at all times out of the home.

"I and many other women like me were always embarrassed to walk into lingerie shops because men were selling the goods," said Saudi shopper Samar Mould.

She said that in the past she often bought the wrong underwear "because I was sensitive about explaining what I wanted to a man."

A royal decree issued by King Abdullah in June last year over the objections of top clerics gave lingerie shop owners six months to get rid of

their male employees and staff their stores with women only.

The ban on male staff is to be extended to cosmetics shops from July.

"This is an order from the king," Labour Minister Adel Faqih told AFP.

"All preparations are under way to fully implement this decision," he said, adding that more than 7,300 retail outlets would be affected by the ban on male staff, creating job opportunities for more than 40,000 Saudi women.

The labour ministry's original proposal to allow women to work in lingerie stores sparked a storm of protest from the kingdom's top clerics three years ago. They issued a fatwa, or religious decree, barring women from any such work.

Women, who for years had complained about being forced to buy their underwear from men, hit back with a campaign on Facebook called "Enough Embarrassment."

"The embarrassment has ended," the activists' page proudly proclaimed this week.

The campaign's founder, Fatima Garoub, welcomed the implementation of the new law and said that despite initial hesitations among retailers, "they are now responding positively, especially since they have no choice."

Another Saudi activist, Reem Asaad, who launched a campaign to boycott lingerie shops that employ male sales staff, said her efforts were aimed at "sending a message to decision-makers."

"This is about social awareness... The king had a strategy to support women in the workforce... Our demands have been realised," Asaad told AFP.

The strict segregation of the sexes outside the home that is enforced in Saudi Arabia by the kingdom's powerful religious police means that women are effectively barred from many jobs.

The conservative clergy remain deeply opposed to their working in lingerie stores too.

Top cleric Sheikh Abdel Aziz al-Sheikh warned shop owners that employing women was a "crime and prohibited by Islamic Sharia law."



A royal decree issued by King Abdullah in June last year gave lingerie shop owners six months to staff their stores with women only.

He said that allowing women to work as sales assistants was "shameful" and would result in "major problems" as eventually they would inevitably interact with male strangers.

But for Saudi women the new law provides a rare and welcome opportunity for employment.

"I was afraid at first... I wasn't sure if society would accept it," said Samar Mould, a sales assistant in a lingerie shop in the port city of Jeddah.

"But then I found the exact opposite. Everyone thanked us... They were relieved," she said.

There have been complaints and even law suits from retailers. But the labour ministry has taken on some 400 inspectors to ensure that the new

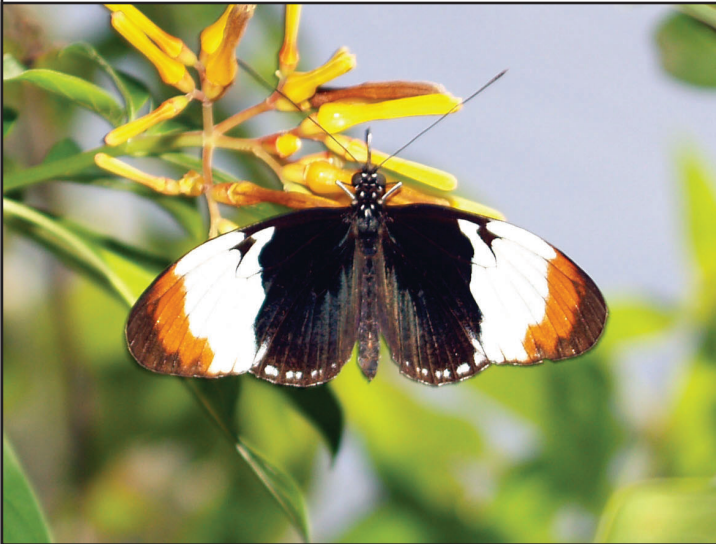
law is respected by all of the kingdom's 4,332 lingerie stores.

"There is no turning back now," the labour minister said.



**Please remember to
check your breasts
every month**

Aruba's Butterfly Farm - as fascinating as ever



Among Aruba's many repeat visitors you will find that those in the know are dedicated fans of the Butterfly Farm located between The Westin Aruba and Divi Phoenix Resorts in Palm Beach. Aruba's most unusual attraction is an absolute delight and your first visit will convert you to a butterfly fanatic as well.

A setting of tropical flowers and classical music is the perfect backdrop to observe nature's magnificent artistry in action. Open daily from 9:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. with tours conducted every half hour throughout the day

- the last at 4:00 p.m. - the Butterfly Farm is educational and enlightening, as well. It is the perfect place to enjoy these brilliant hues wonders of nature. The purchase of a ticket at the beginning of your stay allows unlimited return visits until departure.

The staff kindly provides a guide to identify the various exotic species from around the world and there are at least 200 butterflies fluttering around, drinking nectar, or relaxing in the shade. The farm also imports pupae, so often you can see the butterflies breaking out of their chrysalis or perhaps the largest such creature, the Atlas Moth, fresh from its cocoon. This amazing insect lives only five days, so be on the lookout for this rare treat!

Aside from the inventory of live butterflies, the farm houses a gift shop which boasts the largest collection of butterfly souvenirs, jewelry and knick-knacks to be gathered in one place. If you are a fan of anything with butterflies, you are bound to find a beautiful memento of your visit, or a treasured gift.



Are we having fun yet? All ages will enjoy Flowrider and Fun City

How many parents chasing after their little ones while on vacation have had that phrase cross their minds? "Are WE having fun yet?" Watching out for the kids on vacation and keeping them entertained can make many a parent wonder if the trip was worth it, but now there is an all encompassing answer at Palm Beach Plaza Shopping Mall that will pro-

tainment.

Another section of the third floor of the shopping center run by Fun City has baby rides, video games and air hockey scaled to pint-sized players and a rock climbing wall and other fun for teenagers.



Learning activities to stimulate young minds

For a fee of \$20 per hour, parents can rest assured their youngsters are well cared for and having a great time in a secure, controlled environment.

birthday party, the complex offers terrific packages that will make it an event to re-



Share the fun on Flowrider

vide hours of exciting entertainment for all ages and peace of mind for anxious parents.

The Flowrider/ Fun City complex in Palm Beach takes up the area of a full size resort and offers great activities at reasonable prices for every member of the family. Everyone will love spending time in the only Flowrider surfing environment in the Caribbean,

children are photographed at check in, and children are not released to anyone but their parents. Both receive ID tags with bar codes which must match up when coming to retrieve your children and adults also are provided a beeper so they may be summoned at anytime, if necessary. Couples are then free to relax and enjoy



Award winning Comfyland environment

member at a reasonable price.

All the family will find Flowrider and Fun City adding an exciting new aspect to their Aruba vacation

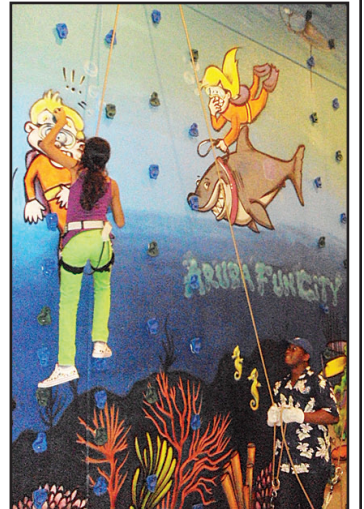


while parents can leave their youngest at Fun City under careful security and supervision to relax and enjoy a bit of shopping, or a delightful dinner for just the two of them.

Fun City offers 3 age-appropriate environments for youngsters from 1 year to 12, with trained group leaders seeing to all the children's needs and providing educational fun for the little ones. There is the Baby Gym for ages 3 or 4 and Comfyland for kids up to 10, which was named "Best Playground of 2010" by the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions; both provide great ways for energetic young bodies to get a workout while also being guided through learning enter-

Palm Beach's many grown-up attractions, such as shopping and fine dining, with peace of mind.

Fun City provides two great environments for the family to share some quality time, Laser Tag and Desperado, a "5-Dimensional" interactive entertainment experience that will delight the young and the young at heart; an absolute bargain at only \$5 for either adventure. If you want to organize a unique and thrilling



and now you have an answer when you teenagers ask "Are we having fun yet?"



SPORTS

Tennis: Top two women ready to rumble



Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark hits a return against Tsvetana Pironkova of Bulgaria during their women's singles session 7 match on day five of the Hopman Cup tennis tournament in Perth on January 4, 2012.

PERTH (AFP) - The scene is set for an early season blockbuster, after world number one Caroline Wozniacki and her rival Petra Kvitová both notched singles wins at the Hopman Cup on Wednesday.

The top two players in women's tennis, drawn to face each other on Friday, both remained unbeaten in singles at the mixed teams tournament, but won in contrasting fashion.

World number one Wozniacki battled past the 46th-ranked Tsvetana Pironkova in three sets and more than two hours on the court, while her nearest rival in the rankings breezed past American Bethanie Mattek-Sands.

Wozniacki, who made a host of unforced errors and hit very few winners, survived a tight three-setter against her Bulgarian rival, winning 7-5, 4-6, 6-2, while Kvitová's powered past the 55th-ranked Mattek-Sands, 6-2, 6-1.

Both players won their initial outings here in straight

sets, the Dane beating Mattek-Sands just four hours after flying into Perth, while last year's Wimbledon champion was too good for Pironkova.

Kvitová, who trails Wozniacki by 115 points in the rankings and is poised to claim the number one spot within weeks, conceded there would be great interest in the match, but warned against reading too much into the result.

"It will be a nice match for the people," she said. "It is a good test, but it is still preparation at the beginning of the season."

Wozniacki said she was looking forward to Friday's match.

"She is a good player and hits the ball hard," she said.

Wozniacki played down her error-riddled performance in the singles as Denmark lost 2-1 to Bulgaria.

The 21-year-old Dane, who described Pironkova as a tricky opponent, said she got

the result she wanted and added that she was confident of improving dramatically ahead of the Australian Open.

"I always think I am improving, but the first couple of matches of the season are always a bit tough and you need to find your feet out there."

"As I keep playing more matches I will improve and start playing better."

Kvitová demolished Mattek-Sands in just 67 minutes, rounding it up with a sizzling forehand winner on match point.

Ominously, the 21-year-old said she was disappointed with her form against the American.

"I am happy that I won," Kvitová said. "Still, I have a lot of space for improvement, because I didn't feel very comfortable on the court."

Wozniacki's win gave Denmark the lead in the Group A tie, but Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov squared the ledger with a straight sets win over Frederik Nielsen, 7-6 (7/5), 6-2.

The Bulgarians then came from a set down to win the deciding mixed doubles in a match tiebreak, 3-6, 6-4, 10-1, and keep their Hopman Cup hopes alive.

After Kvitová's win, world number seven Tomas Berdych secured the tie for the Czech Republic against the United States with a 6-3, 6-3 win over Mardy Fish.

The Czechs completed a clean sweep when they also won the mixed doubles.

The Czechs lead Group A after winning their first two ties. They will advance to Saturday's final if they beat Denmark on Friday, while the USA, the defending champions, are out of contention after successive defeats.

Federer and Nadal breeze into last eight

continued from page 16

His ability to produce such an elegant performance in the variable breeze was something of a mystery. He was asked how he managed it.

"Not getting frustrated," he replied.

"I used to be very emotional when I was younger, after growing up in Switzerland where we didn't have wind that much, and where we also played indoors (a lot).

"It was difficult learning how to play in the wind. But I have had a lot of practice playing in windy places, and it doesn't bother me any more."

Federer next plays Mikhail Youzhny, who is one of his for-



Roger Federer of Switzerland returns the ball to Gergo Zempleni of Slovenia

mer practice partners.

The seventh seeded Russian,

who got past Ivo Karlovic, the Croatian who has often headed

the serving stats on the men's tour, by 6-2, 6-7 (3/7), 6-3.

Nadal next plays Andreas Seppi, the eighth-seeded Italian, who overcame another Spaniard, Guillermo Garcia-Lopez, 7-5, 6-3, and may have the ability to make Nadal raise his standard again.


He is also likely to see Nadal arriving with different luggage. The holder of ten Grand Slam titles forgot to bring his normal kitbag, and arrived with an odd little case, pulled along on wheels.

Quizzed about it, Nadal admitted he considered using his troublesome shoulder as an explanation for his unorthodox

style of baggage.



"But actually it's the bag I have for my computer, and play station, and all the cables - so I pulled out everything and put the clothes in there! Er, did you like it by the way?"





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Baseball: Torre quits MLB job to pursue Dodgers bid



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Joe Torre, a Major League Baseball manager for 28 years before becoming a league executive, has resigned his post to pursue a bid to buy the Los Angeles Dodgers, the league announced on Wednesday.

Torre surrendered his position as Major League Baseball's vice president of baseball operations, a job he was given last February by commissioner Bud Selig.

"I have made this decision because of a unique chance to join a group that plans to bid for the Dodgers," Torre said. "This job was an incredible experience, one that I enjoyed very much."

Torre guided the New York Yankees to World Series titles in 1996, 1998, 1999 and 2000 during a 12-year stint as man-

ager before taking over as manager of the Dodgers in 2008 until retiring in 2010.

The 71-year-old former infielder with Atlanta, St. Louis and the New York Mets will join the Dodgers' bid of Los Angeles shopping center developer Rick Caruso.

"I have great confidence in Rick Caruso's unique qualifications and his ability to lead a successful bid for the Los Angeles Dodgers," Torre said. "I'm very excited about this new opportunity."

Among reported rival bidders for the historical ballclub, which has been in bankruptcy since last June, are retired NBA star Magic Johnson, former owners Fox Sports and Peter O'Malley and NBA champion Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban.

A January 23 deadline has been set for submitting initial offers, with current owner Frank McCourt having agreed to select a winning bid by April 1 in order for a sale of the team to be completed by April 30.

Torre's duties will, on an interim basis, fall upon senior vice presidents Peter Woodfork, Joe Garagiola Jr and Kim Ng.

NBA: Grizzlies lose Randolph to injury, obtain Speights

NEW YORK (AFP) - Memphis forward Zach Randolph will miss six to eight weeks of the NBA season with a torn right knee ligament, prompting the Grizzlies to make a three-team deal on Wednesday for big man Marreese Speights.

An MRI exam showed Randolph, an 11-year NBA veteran, suffered a torn right medial collateral ligament in the first quarter of a 104-64 loss at Chicago last Sunday. Team doctor Fred Azar gave the prognosis for his February return.

Randolph, 29, averaged 20.1 points and a team-record 12.2 rebounds, a career high, last season for the Grizzlies. He led the team with 14.8 points and also grabbed 7.5 rebounds through the first four games of this season.

Quickly moving to add front-court talent, the Grizzlies swung a deal with Philadelphia for Speights in exchange for a second-round pick in the 2012 NBA Draft.



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Football: Brazilian young hope Danilo arrives at Porto



(AFP) - Highly rated Brazilian Danilo arrived at Portuguese champions Porto on

Wednesday, with fans eagerly anticipating his debut after his 13 million euro (\$16.8m) transfer from Santos last July.

The 20-year-old, a member of the Brazil side that won the World Under-20 title last year, is the second most costly transfer in Por-

tuguese football history after his compatriot and new team-

mate Hulk, who joined Porto for 19 million euros in 2008.

Danilo, who is primarily a midfielder but can also play at right-back, signed a five-year contract with Porto but Santos got agreement from the Portuguese side that he could stay until the winter transfer window.

During that time he helped Santos win the Libertadores Cup.

"As with every team with whom I have played, my target is to win trophies," he told the club website.

Football: Ancelotti dampens Kaka, Pato rumours



AC Milan's forward Pato

(AFP) - New Paris Saint-Germain coach Carlo Ancelotti has played down speculation linking his side with moves for Real Madrid playmaker Kaka and AC Milan striker Alexandre Pato.

On Tuesday, a source close to PSG owners Qatar Sports Investments (QSI) told AFP that the club had set aside 61.5 million euros (\$80m) to recruit both Brazilians, but Ancelotti said the Ligue 1 leaders had not made approaches for

either player.

"Pato is a Milan player," said the Italian, who previously worked with both players during his time as Milan coach. "He has a contract and we're therefore not interested."

On Kaka, he added: "At the moment, there is no chance of signing him. There's a transfer window and we'll speak to the club about improving the team."

"I don't want to talk about individuals like Pato or Kaka, who are under contract. We'll be working to buy some players, but in order to recruit, clubs must be willing to sell."

Ancelotti tasted defeat in his first game in charge on Wednesday, as a goal from Pato condemned PSG to a 1-0 loss against Milan in a mid-season friendly in Dubai.

Interviewed after the game, Pato insisted that he was happy at San Siro.

"For the moment, I'm a

Milan player and I'm only thinking about training well in order to have a good season," he said.

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NBA All-Star voting tips off

NEW YORK (AFP) - Global fan voting for the starting line-ups in next month's 61st NBA All-Star Game began on Wednesday with all ballots to be filed digitally for the match-up of elite players in Orlando, Florida.

The Eastern Conference and Western Conference elites will meet on February 26 despite the contract dispute that shortened the regular season to 66 games per team.

Voting will conclude on January 31. Teams will be announced on February 2.

A total of 120 players were listed on the official ballot, which will be available for voting on the league's website as well as through a mobile telephone application, SMS text messages and wireless carriers.

East guards on the ballot include Miami's Dwyane Wade, Chicago's Derrick Rose and Boston's Rajon Rondo, while West backcourt candidates include Kobe Bryant of the Los Angeles Lakers, injured Argentine playmaker Manu Ginobili of

San Antonio and his French team-mate Tony Parker, Canadian Steve Nash of Phoenix and Jason Kidd of reigning NBA champion Dallas.

East centers on the ballot feature Australian Andrew Bogut of Milwaukee, Frenchmen Boris Diaw of Charlotte and Joakim Noah of Chicago and Orlando star Dwight Howard, while West big men include the Lakers' Andrew Bynum and Spaniard Marc Gasol of Memphis.

East forwards on the ballot include New York's Carmelo Anthony, Miami's LeBron James and Chris Bosh, Chicago's Luol Deng of Great Britain and Boston's Kevin Garnett and Paul Pierce.

West forward candidates include San Antonio's Tim Duncan, Oklahoma City's Kevin Durant, Spaniard Pau Gasol and Metta World Peace of the Lakers, Blake Griffin of the Los Angeles Clippers and the Dallas trio of Lamar Odom, Shawn Marion and German playmaker Dirk Nowitzki.

Tennis: Federer and Nadal breeze into last eight

DOHA (AFP) - Roger Federer and Rafa Nadal kept on course for a meeting in the opening ATP final of the season as both eased into the quarter-finals of the Qatar Open here on Wednesday.

Federer, the Grand Slam record-holder from Switzerland, delivered a smooth and graceful performance for the second successive day in beating Grega Zemlja, a qualifier from Slovenia, 6-2, 6-3 in only an hour.

Nadal, the French Open champion from Spain, produced a higher level than during his opening day struggle, overcoming Denis Gremelmayr, a fellow left-hander from Germany, by 6-2, 6-2.

In a contest of well-contested rallies though he needed half an hour longer than Federer.

Nevertheless Nadal did seem to be achieving some of his new year objectives - in particular playing more aggressively, and getting used to a heavier headed racket.

"I am also trying to return (serve) a little bit better," he said.

"The worst things I did last year was with my return. I was happy with the way my return worked today (Wednesday).

"A few things worked well. With the weight of the racket I started to have a good feeling, which is very important.

"I also want to have enough shots not to be predictable. I want to attack the ball faster and hit with more power and spin."

That sounds like particularly bad news for Nadal's rivals, many of whom consider he hits with more than enough power and spin already.

Gremelmayr seven times achieved deuce games with

Nadal but was only able to win two of them. Key to winning the important points was Nadal's exceptional ability to adjust late with his footwork in a continuing troublesome wind.

Federer started and finished like a train.

He was soon 3-1 up, and after saving two break back points in the seventh game, began to accelerate again, ripping trademark forehand drives from near the backhand tramlines and winning the last 14 points in a row.

continues on page 14

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